

COUNTRY ANALYSIS BRIEFS

Syria

Last Updated: June 2009

Background

Syria produces and consumes modest quantities of oil and natural gas, but occupies a strategic location in terms of regional security and prospective energy transit routes.

Syria is the only significant crude oil producing country in the Eastern Mediterranean region, which includes Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian territories. In 2008, Syria produced a total of about 450,000 barrels per day (bbl/d) of crude oil and oil liquids and 213 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas.

Regional integration in the energy sector is increasing through the opening of the Syria link of the Arab Gas Pipeline and plans for expanding the pipeline network are ongoing.

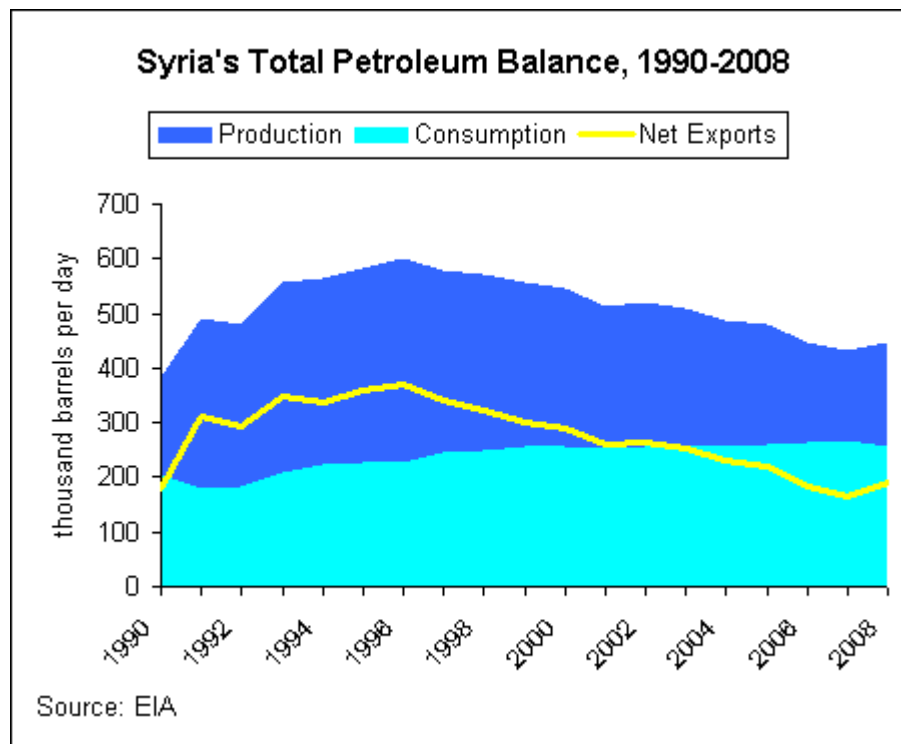


Oil

Reserves and Production

Syria is the only significant oil producer and exporter in the Eastern Mediterranean region. Production has been in decline since the mid-1990s while domestic demand has been increasing.

According to the *Oil and Gas Journal*, Syria has 2.5 billion barrels of petroleum reserves as of January 1, 2009. Since peaking at 583,000 barrels per day (bbl/d) in 1996, Syria's crude oil production has been in decline. In 2008, crude oil production reached an estimated 390,000 bbl/d. Total oil liquids production, which includes crude and natural gas liquids (NGL), in 2008 is estimated at about 450,000 bbl/d. Syria consumed 256,000 bbl/d of petroleum liquids in 2008, while net exports amounted to 192,000 bbl/d.



Syria's upstream oil production and development has traditionally been the mandate of the [Syrian Petroleum Company \(SPC\)](#), an arm of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR). The SPC has undertaken efforts to reverse the trend toward declining oil production and exports by increasing oil exploration and production in partnership with foreign oil companies.

Syria's largest foreign oil producer is Al-Furat Petroleum Co., a joint venture established in 1985 which currently includes the Syrian Petroleum Company (SPC), Shell, India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, and the China National Petroleum Company (CNPC).

[Exports](#)

In 2008, Syria's net petroleum exports were estimated to be 192,000 bbl/d. All oil exports are marketed by Sytrol, Syria's state oil marketing firm. The majority of Syrian crude oil exports go to OECD European countries, amounting to an estimated 147,000 bbl/d in 2008 according to OECD data.

[Pipelines and Export Terminals](#)

Currently, most Syrian oil is moved by trucks and tankers. In April 2009, it was reported that talks were underway between Syria and Iraq to repair and reopen the Kirkuk-Banias oil pipeline, which extends 500 miles from oil fields in northern Iraq to the Syrian port of Banias. This pipeline, which could be used to export production from Iraq's northern fields, has been closed since 2003. At its peak, the line had a capacity of around 300,000 barrels per day.

Syria has a developed domestic pipeline system for transporting crude and petroleum products managed by the Syrian Company for Oil Transportation (SCOT). Pipelines include the 250,000-bbl/d, 347-mile Tel Adas-Tartous crude line linking SPC and Tanganyika fields to the port at Tartous and the refinery at Homs.

Syria has three Mediterranean oil export/import terminals, all managed by SCOT. Baniyas (7 berths, and Tartous (2 berths), are larger ports; Latakia handles smaller cargoes. The terminals are connected to refineries through the domestic pipeline network.

[Refining](#)

According to the *Oil and Gas Journal*, Syria's total refining capacity approximates 240,000 bbl/d as of January 2009. Syria's two state-owned refineries are located at Baniyas and Homs, which have 133,000 bbl/d and 107,000 bbl/d, respectively, of refining capacity. Syria's refineries produce a surplus of heavier products, including fuel oil, but fail to meet demand for lighter products,

including distillates. Press reports indicate that Syria plans to upgrade these refineries to process heavier crudes and replace output of fuel oil with lighter products to meet European Union standards for fuel imports. The Syrian Company for the Distribution of Petroleum Products (Mahrukat) manages all aspects of marketing of Syrian oil products, including the majority of gasoline retail outlets.

Natural Gas

Reserves and Production

According to the *Oil and Gas Journal*, as of January 1, 2009, Syria's proven natural gas reserves are estimated to be 8.5 trillion cubic feet (Tcf). In 2008, Syria produced an estimated 213 billion cubic feet (Bcf) of natural gas, with 218 Bcf consumed and 5 Bcf imported.

Natural Gas Imports and Pipelines

In 2008, Syria imported an estimated 5 Bcf of natural gas from Egypt by way of the Arab Gas Pipeline (AGP). Syria's long-term aim is to become a transit state for Egyptian, Iraqi, and potentially Iranian gas, which would gain it valuable transit revenues as well as help increase the availability of natural gas imports to Syria.

Arab Gas Pipeline

The AGP currently links Egypt with Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon and will include Turkey by the end of 2010. Syria is planning to serve as a regional hub for the pipeline transport of natural gas to Lebanon and Turkey, from where it will ultimately link up to the European network. Transit revenues are under discussion with Egypt in 2009 to enable up to 35 million cubic feet per day of Egyptian gas to reach the Lebanese market.

Syria-Iraq Gas Pipeline

In February 2009, it was reported that Syria and Iraq are in the process of constructing a new natural gas pipeline from the 2.1-Tcf Akkas gas field in Iraq's western province of Al-Anbar.

Persian Pipeline

Syria and Iran reportedly signed a cooperation agreement in April 2009 which includes plans for a natural gas pipeline between Iran and Syria. The proposed pipeline is seen as ultimately connecting Iran's south Pars field to Europe via Turkey.

Through developing its natural gas resources along with the development of a regional pipeline system, Syria plans to become a regional hub for natural gas transport.

Profile

Energy Overview

Proven Oil Reserves (January 1, 2009E)	2.5 billion barrels
Total Oil Production (2008E)	450 thousand barrels per day
Crude Oil Production (2008E)	390 thousand barrels per day
Oil Consumption (2008E)	256 thousand barrels per day
Net Petroleum Exports (2008E)	192 thousand barrels per day
Crude Oil Distillation Capacity (2009E)	240 thousand barrels per day
Proven Natural Gas Reserves (January 1, 2009E)	8.5 trillion cubic feet
Natural Gas Production (2008E)	213 billion cubic feet

Natural Gas Consumption (2008E)	218 billion cubic feet
Natural Gas Imports (2008E)	5 billion cubic feet
Total Energy Consumption (2006E)	0.8 quadrillion Btu*, of which Oil (69%), Natural Gas (26%), Hydroelectricity (4%)
Total Per Capita Energy Consumption (2006E)	42.9 million Btu
Energy Intensity (2006E)	11,509 Btu per \$2000-PPP**

Oil and Gas Industry

Organization	Upstream and downstream oil and gas sectors controlled by the state-owned Syrian Petroleum Company (SPC) and the Syrian Gas Company (SGC), and part of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources. Since 2001, Syria has re-opened upstream oil and gas exploration to international oil companies through production sharing agreements. Investments in downstream infrastructure increasingly open to foreign investment, particularly from China, Russia and Arab investors.
Major Oil/Gas Ports	Baniyas, Tartous and Latakia
Foreign Company Involvement	Shell Oil, Total, Stroytransgaz, Tanganyika, Soyuzneftegaz, ONGC, CPNC, IPR, Emerald, Gulfsands, Petro-Canada, Hayan,
Major Oil and Natural Gas Basins	Palmyra, Suweidiya, Deir Ez-Zour, Jbessa
Major Pipelines (capacity)	Iraq-Syria-Lebanon Pipeline (300,000 bbl/d, not functioning), Arab Gas Pipeline (970 MMcf/d) (when completed to Turkey)
Major Refineries (capacity, bbl/d) (2009E)	Baniyas (132,725), Homs (107,140)

* The total energy consumption statistic includes petroleum, dry natural gas, coal, net hydro, nuclear, geothermal, solar, wind, wood and waste electric power.

**GDP figures from Global Insight estimates based on purchasing power parity (PPP) exchange rates.

Links

EIA Links

[EIA: Country Information on Syria](#)

U.S. Government

[CIA World Factbook - Syria](#)

[U.S. State Department - Consular Information Sheet - Syria](#)

[U.S. State Department Background Notes on Syria](#)

Other Links

[Oxford Business Group](#)

[AlBawabaSyroil](#)

[Al-Furat Petroleum Co.](#)

[Syrian Petroleum Co.](#)

[Tanganyika Oil](#)

[Gulfsands Petroleum](#)

[Euro-Arab Mashreq Gas Market Project](#)

[Nabucco Pipeline](#)

Sources

Al- Bawaba

Al- Furat Petroleum Co.

APS Review Gas Market Trends

BBC World wide Monitoring
Business Middle East
CIA World Factbook
Energy Compass
Euro-Arab Mashreq Gas Market Project (AGP)
Global Insight
Government of Syria , Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources
Government of Syria, Syrian Petroleum Company
Gulfsands Petroleum Co.
Improved Petroleum Recovery Co. (IPR)
International Energy Agency
International Oil Daily
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
Middle East and Africa Oil & Gas Insights
Middle East Economic Survey (MEE S)
Oil and Gas Journal
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Oxford Business Group
Platt's Oilgram News
Prime- Tass Business Wire
Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA)
Syrian Company for Oil Transport (SCOT)
Syrian News Digest
Syrian Petroleum Company (SPC)
Tanganyika Petroleum Co.
U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)
World Bank
World Gas Intelligence
World Petroleum Intelligence

Contact Info

cabs@eia.doe.gov
(202)586-8800
cabs@eia.doe.gov